

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 23, NO. 5 \* Congregation Beth Israel \* Bellingham, WA 98229 \* bethisraelbellingham.org \* (360) 733-8890

## From one celebration to another — Yom Ha'Atzmaut and Lag B'Omer

May 8 and 22 at 6 pm

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Since the miraculous return of the Jewish people to our Homeland in 1948, after almost 2000 years in exile, Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) has been celebrated on the fifth of Iyyar, the Hebrew date of the founding of the State of Israel. On the eve of May 8 and during the following day, people in Israel, America, and everywhere between will be rejoicing on Israel's 71st birthday.

Please join your CBI community as we sing, dance, and eat in celebration of *Medinat Yisrael*. Our evening will begin with a Yom Ha Zikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) siren and moment of silence, followed by "Hatikva," led by our sixth graders. Rabbi Samuels will lead the second annual *Hidon ha-Tanakh* (Torah trivia), we will have a prayer for peace song circle, and of course, there will be Israeli foods. Please bring a dish to share. Come and celebrate with us!



### Lag B'Omer

Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day between Passover and Shavuot. In the midst of the 49 total days of mourning, Lag B'Omer is a respite from the sadness, and we are obligated to celebrate life and be happy. Furthermore, since this period in ancient Israel was the time of the first new grain harvest, we observe this day outside with plenty of fun activities.

Join us on Wednesday, May 22 at 6 pm, for a vegetarian/pescatarian bar-b-que, bow-and-arrow-making, and singing around a controlled bonfire. You won't want to miss it!

FROM THE RABBI

## Honor (Kavod)

There is a story in the Talmud about the famous Rabbi Tarfon that has always seemed a bit comical to me. In *Massechet Kiddushin* 30b, we read, "Whenever Rabbi Tarfon's mother wanted to go to



bed, he would kneel beside the bed, bend over and let her climb over him; and when she wanted to get out of bed, he

would let her step down on him. When he told the other scholars [in the yeshiva] what he did, they told him, 'You still haven't reached even half the level of honor due to her.'"

I don't know whether to praise Tarfon for being the best son ever (my mom will disagree) or to criticize him for not thinking about building a stepstool. This story, like so many in the Talmud, is not necessarily meant to be taken literally. Rather, what is the pedagogic lesson the rabbis want us to take away from this extreme example of honoring one's parent?

In my Mussar class this spring, we have studied several Jewish values, including humility, patience, gratitude, compassion,

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*From the President...*

# The old world and the new

Dear Congregants,

Vicky and I recently returned from a trip to Budapest. We were traveling with friends, one of whom was exploring her Jewish roots in Hungary. While there, we had the opportunity to visit the Dohány Street Synagogue, which is the largest in Europe. Constructed in the 1850s, not long after Jews acquired the right to own land in the community, the synagogue has the capacity to accommodate up to 5,000, with 3,000 seated in the pews. The synagogue continues to be an active center of worship for the Budapest Jewish community 160 years after it was first consecrated. It also stands as a symbol of survival and revival after the horrors of the Holocaust.



The story of the synagogue's construction is both refreshing and familiar. Built to be the center of a vibrant Jewish community, the effort included participation across the great spectrum of Budapest Jewry in the 19th century. The synagogue eventually became a home for "Neolog Judaism," a reform movement within Hungary that came to prominence during the latter stages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the same time, the construction effort brought together both Ashkenazi and Sephardic communities, and both Orthodox and Neolog Jews. We can well imagine that discussions of the design and construction of the sanctuary went

deep into the Budapest nights of the 1850s.

And the Dohány Street Synagogue opened before it was finished! I was struck by this familiar story. Standing in one of the world's great Jewish buildings, we learned that the marble planned for the walls became too costly, so they were later painted to appear marbled! (And somehow, the acoustics of the sanctuary still functioned.) As we grow into our own great building, also constructed to stand the test of time for hundreds of years to come, I am comforted that we will add the ark, the commercial kitchen, and other necessities; and future generations will marvel at our contemporary yet sacred space here in the Pacific Northwest.

This column is also my last as President of CBI. My time as President has been a privilege, an honor, and an adventure! As I indicated during my first Rosh Hashanah address, this is not a role in which I expected to find myself. Whatever success I have enjoyed is the result of the work of so many of you who dedicate yourselves to serving our community and keeping the light of Judaism lit on San Juan Boulevard. During a time of disruption and transition, our staff led the way through their hard work and flexibility. Our lay leadership, the board, and the many committees that keep us going continually inspired me through their hard work and "can do" attitudes. There are unsung heroes in our community who show up and take care of so many things that are rarely visible but nonetheless vitally important to our operations. If I stopped to name everyone, it would take a whole issue of the *Shul Shofar*.

Thank you all for your support, for your passion, for your willingness to have hard conversations, and most of all, for helping our community continue to grow and to thrive in the 21st century!

— STEVEN GARFINKLE,  
PRESIDENT

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98229

*The Shul Shofar*  
Volume 23, Number 5  
May/June 2019  
Nisan/Iyyar/Sivan 5779

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. It is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$35/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

**Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the July/August issue is JUNE 11.** Call the office for more information.

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Printed by Lewis Publishing Inc. in  
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Beth Israel is a member of:

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*From the Social Action Committee***Social Action Committee thanks CBI volunteers**

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

For this month's Shofar article, I would like to express gratitude and appreciation for the volunteers of Congregation Beth Israel. There is so much work done by all the committees to maintain our caring and financially solvent community. At Passover, when it is traditional to be welcoming hungry strangers, congregant members made thirty pounds of food donations to the Bellingham Food Bank. I am especially thankful to all the great volunteers of the social action committee who are committed to tikkun olam. Volunteers made Mitzvah Day happen this past April. A special thanks to project leaders Esther Faber, Victoria Mayers, Corinne Gimbel-Levine, Kristin and Joel Sykes-David, Amanda Robins, Daniel Zagnoli, Andrea Shupack, and Sarann Donegan. We raised funds for Nothing But Nets, a project to buy nets to prevent malaria. A big thank you to Mel Damski for the donation of a basketball hoop and basketballs to CBI. We also want to thank Ruth Evans for donating the Little Tot Hoop for our younger congregants to participate in this activity. In other projects, over 80 hygiene kits were made for Northwest Youth Services. The Blood Drive was suc-

cessful and could not have happened without the generosity of our community. We also collected more bone marrow donors for the Gift of Life. The cemetery was cleaned and the Youth Group was able to clean up Interfaith Coalition's Little House.

In May and June, we will collect milk money for the Bellingham Food Bank. Shavuot is the time we celebrate the giving of the Torah and eat blintzes and cheesecake, which we associate with Israel, the land of milk and honey. We hope to collect money to provide a half-gallon of milk to each family visiting the Food Bank during June. Please make checks payable to Bellingham Food Bank and mail donations to the office. This year's goal: \$500. Also, any donations of baby food and diapers would be appreciated during May and June. Donation bins are located in the synagogue.

The Family Promise Program's Day Center is in need of volunteers. There is ongoing training to work shifts for as little as 1.5 hours weekdays and during the weekend. These are day hours, 10 am to 5 pm. This is NOT for daycare or childcare. This is to support the families and be available for help during the daytime in the

Family Promise Support Center located next to First Christian Church at 495 E. Bakerview Rd. Please contact Andrea Shupack to volunteer.

We also appreciate the generous donation from Patrick Crane to help us address homelessness in Bellingham.

A little housekeeping—a group of Beth Israelites has been cleaning one of the nine Interfaith houses that provide short-term housing to families in need. These are families that may be living in cars or camping as they wait to receive public housing assistance, or to save up enough money to pay first and last month's rent for their own apartment. As families move out to more stable housing, our group comes in and gets the house ready for new occupants. Cleaners include Arlene Feld, Corinne Gimbel-Levine, Esther Faber and Joan Wayne. Please contact Linda Blackwell to volunteer.

CBI plans to participate in the Bellingham Pride Parade in July. Look in future eNews for the date. If you wish to be on the Social Action Committee, please contact Linda at [blackwellbham@gmail.com](mailto:blackwellbham@gmail.com).

**Synagogue 411**

**Archives:** Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

**Care:** Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381;  
Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

**Membership:** Rita Spitzer,  
(360) 647-7065; Ann Suloway,  
(360) 296-8220

**Library, Scrip:** Joan Wayne,  
(360) 676-8939

**New Synagogue Task Force:**

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## Bar Mitzvah



**Rory Verkh-Haskell** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 15, 2019. He is the son of Todd Haskell and Sasha Verkh and the brother of Jordan.

Rory is a seventh grader at Fairhaven Middle School. He loves technology, being outside (whether it's just a nice day or he is playing soccer with his friends), and pasta. He reads voraciously on any topic. For his mitzvah project, Rory volunteered

this school year with Wild Whatcom Boys Explorers' Club, mentoring younger kids in the program.

Please join Rory's family in celebration:

### SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

**Friday, June 14, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

**Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 10:00 am**

Kiddush luncheon to follow  
in the Social Hall.

## Bat Mitzvah



**Sydney Rose Wolfson** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on June 22, 2019. She is the daughter of Laura and Cassandra Wolfson, and the sister of Elijah.

Sydney is a seventh grader at Kulshan Middle School. She loves to draw and create and has a keen eye for decorating. She loves to ski and dance ballet, and enjoys hiking, camping, and backpacking.

Most of all she loves books and can be found curled up with one in every room in the house, in the car, in the yard, while watching movies, at school, and even at the synagogue. For her mitzvah project, Sydney volunteered with the Kulshan Middle School library as a student advisor. She is also assisting in navigating the young reader section of the CBI library. Look for book reviews and Sydney's top 10 list in future issues of the *Shul Shofar*.

Please join Sydney's family in celebration:

### SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

**Friday, June 21, 2019 at 6:15 pm**

Pre-service nosh at 5:30 pm

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

**Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 10:00 am**

Kiddush luncheon to follow  
in the Social Hall.

## The Yenta speaks...



Mazel Tov to Emily Weiner ("*Safta*") on the birth of her grandson, **Niilo Mark Witter McGarrity**, born March 30, 2019. The parents are Rachel Witter McGarrity and Patrick Witter McGarrity, whose Bar Mitzvah at CBI was February 15, 1997. *Safta* celebrated Pesach with Rachel, Pat, and Niilo at their home in Oakland, CA.

### Welcome to our new members:

- **Meg Delzell and Haley Davis; Lily Davis (age 7) and Lyra Davis (age 1)** — Bellingham
- **Helen Franklin** — Bellingham

*From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning*

# B'nei Mitzvah with friends, edible Hebrew lessons, community service, and a YouTube channel!



In the past couple of years, the B'nei Mitzvah team has been focusing on ensuring a confident and resilient B'nei

Mitzvah cohort as they transition into their seventh-grade year. Rabbi Samuels, Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack, and the Keshet teaching team developed a few aspects of the B'nei Mitzvah program so that in addition to delving into the meaningful process of Torah study and analysis, the B'nei Mitzvah will experience:

- a meaningful and **community-supported Bar or Bat Mitzvah** celebration;
- a customized and **personalized** experience;
- a curriculum rich with **Hebrew learning, Jewish values, and community service**;
- a **program** that works with busy schedules; and
- a nurturing environment for **friendships and a social network** for each B'nei Mitzvah cohort.

The study for B'nei Mitzvah begins a few years before the actual big day. As Keshet students reach the fourth grade, they join Keshet B'Ivrit - Keshet's Hebrew classes, a weekly lesson with their Hebrew-level peers. The children are placed in one of three levels (beginners, intermediate, and advanced) and use the Siddur, the Torah, and Modern Hebrew to reach their language acquisition benchmarks in the following seven language components: Decoding,

Modern Hebrew, Grammar, Reading Fluency, Tefilah Leadership, Tefilah Comprehension, and Siddur. The last three follow specific prayers and blessings for each level. But probably the most important language component of all is a **positive association with Hebrew!** Through activities such as games, outdoor exploration, songs, and dances we make Hebrew a living part of our friendships, in the goodies we snack on together, and in the overall inclusive environment that we strive to instill in everything we do.

Given the low frequency of the Keshet B'Ivrit meetings (once a week, not including breaks or holidays during the school year), the teachers have been facing a recurring problem of low retention of the material by the students. To address this challenge, we provide in-home tools that will help the students and their families practice the material that was taught in class, in their own time and at their own pace. Some examples include short videos for review, read-along, and practice on our own YouTube channel! On our new Keshet channel, you may view Siddur prayers performed by our cantorial soloist Andrea Shupack, texts read by our teachers, and other surprises performed by the children themselves.

When seventh grade arrives, the students' Hebrew learning progress is assessed throughout the year to ensure a seamless transition into Bar/Bat Mitzvah-focused Hebrew study. Assessments are performed in various ways, including informal ones such as games, and more formal ones such as written work,



**A positive association with the Hebrew letter Tzadi starts with a feast of Matzah Pizza!**

and actual Tefilah leadership performance. Tefilah leadership performance is a practice the children hone starting in the younger grades, as they help to lead one service a year and share an aspect of their classroom study with the community on a Family Kabbalat Shabbat.

Our Keshet students' journeys to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah day also includes a Mitzvah Project—an individual tikkun olam project that holds a special meaning for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah student. As of this year, B'nei Mitzvah students submit a formal proposal describing their Mitzvah projects to Andrea and Rabbi for review. Their proposal includes a timeline, purpose, and personalized information about the interests of the student as they are reflected through the chosen project. The completed projects will be presented to the community.

—SAGIT HALL שגית הול  
DIRECTOR, KESHER CENTER  
FOR JEWISH LEARNING

# Programming committee blossoms with the Spring

BY MIRIAM SCHWARTZ

The Programming Committee is refreshed after a long winter, and we are ready to develop new programs to enhance the Jewish experience at Congregation Beth Israel! Our goal is to provide enriching, thought-provoking, soul-stirring, or just plain good old fun experiences that speak to us as Jews in Bellingham, and as citizens of the world. A good question is—where are the edges of programming? When does it become worship, social action, education, or some other aspect of CBI? The answer is—we really don't know—because so much of life may be all those things. Here is (a draft of) what I see as Programming Committee's charge:

The CBI Programming Committee seeks to develop activities, presentations, and experiences that enhance and enrich the lives of our community—as CBI members, as other Jews in the area, and as other members of

our community. These may be speakers, musical events, scholars in residence, etc. but each will be in keeping with the values of CBI.

With that in mind, we have a vibrant core group of people (18! What a great number!) with a wealth of ideas, and we are already starting to put some programs on the schedule. We have adopted a somewhat decentralized process: Suppose someone has a great idea for a program—that person becomes the champion of the event, and gathers a small group of core supporters, fleshes out the basic logistics and needs of the event, figures out how to cost-flow it, and then presents this to the Programming Committee. The Committee vets the idea and votes to approve it, as long as the program seems in keeping with our charge, is well thought-out and appropriate, and seems doable. We have a small budget and will try to have programs

sustain themselves, or perhaps seek a sponsor.

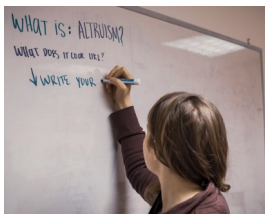
So far, we have two programs being planned:

**May 5:** Screening of CBI member Mary Knight's documentary "Am I Crazy? My Journey To Determine Whether My Memories Are True," championed by Rabbi Samuels. Please be aware, that this particular event is **for adults only**, due to very sensitive material. Please contact Rabbi Samuels for further details.

**June 16:** "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples," championed by Gloria Liebowitz.

Further programming ideas are growing! Stay tuned! Let us know if you are interested in joining our crew, or if you have a fabulous idea for a program! Please contact Miriam Schwartz for further questions at [pieface880@gmail.com](mailto:pieface880@gmail.com).

## A new CBI Holocaust Education Fund announced



In honor of Teacher Appreciation Month, Keshet has made the first donation in honor of Rifka MacDonald, for her invaluable contribution and thoughtful teaching of the seventh-grade students from 2013 to 2019.

This fund will help CBI students, families, and educators deepen their learning of the Holocaust, in a way

that will help them inspire students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action.

Rifka will be completing her sixth year teaching Holocaust Education at Keshet, and this donation is to honor her for her years of service and leadership! *Yashar Koach*, Rifka, and good luck on your new adventures!




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# Birthdays

## MAY 2019

5/2 Richard Trank  
 5/3 Lenny Halpern (12th)  
 5/3 Louis Hunter (23rd)  
 5/4 Bobbie Jaffe  
 5/4 Sydney Wolfson (13th)  
 5/5 Rick Adelstein  
 5/5 Michael Braunstein  
 5/5 Russell Sheinkopf  
 5/6 Gary Adelstein  
 5/8 Greg Schwartz  
 5/10 Penny Schuman  
 5/11 AJ Ingberman (19th)  
 5/11 Oren Shilo (5th)  
 5/12 Warren Cornwall  
 5/12 Leah Grossman  
 5/13 Joseph Anderson  
 5/13 Tim Baker  
 5/13 David Cohn  
 5/13 Adam Greenberg (18th)  
 5/13 Karen Weill  
 5/16 Lyla Simmie Attar (2nd)  
 5/16 Max Johnson (18th)  
 5/16 Mark Luster  
 5/17 Lindsey Genut  
 5/17 Suzanne Fischel Kite  
 5/17 Mel Velsher  
 5/18 Kendra Bradford  
 5/18 Adelle John  
 5/19 Howard Fuller  
 5/19 Kathy Grossman  
 5/20 Helen Franklin  
 5/20 John Siegfried  
 5/10 Emily Weiner  
 5/21 Meredith Attar  
 5/21 Andrea James  
 5/21 Ann Suloway

5/22 Danny Finkelstein  
 5/22 Aviva Grossman (8th)  
 5/23 Isaac Blum  
 5/23 Serge Lindner  
 5/23 Ezra Carter Price (14th)  
 5/24 Harriet Fine  
 5/24 Jeffrey Holtzman  
 5/24 Stephen Martin  
 5/24 Becki Van Glubt  
 5/25 Alan Barney  
 5/26 Stephen Spigelman  
 5/26 Cassandra Wolfson  
 5/27 Haley Davis  
 5/27 Fay Farkas  
 5/29 Kim Moskowitz  
 5/29 Aline Wanne  
 5/30 Teddy Ingberman (16th)  
 5/31 Hannah Rose  
 5/31 Todd Witte

6/9 Jeffrey Grossman  
 6/10 James Prickett  
 6/11 Diane Garmo  
 6/11 Marcy Probst  
 6/11 Galit Shilo  
 6/11 Aiden Shupack (7th)  
 6/11 Adin Sokol (17th)  
 6/12 Ron Walt  
 6/12 Henry Zemel  
 6/13 Leslie Shankman  
 6/14 Halle Goldner  
 6/14 Susan Kendal  
 6/14 Willa Wren Levinson (5th)  
 6/15 Diane Leigh  
 6/16 Lee Shapiro  
 6/16 Stuart Zemel  
 6/17 Valerie Randolph  
 6/17 Todd Shuster  
 6/19 Rena Ziegler  
 6/20 Phyllis Mazur  
 6/21 Ruth Schneider  
 6/21 Sheila Sondik  
 6/22 Milo Levinson (10th)  
 6/23 Leah Reitz (21st)  
 6/24 Jill Elkayam  
 6/25 Mike Brennan  
 6/25 Adam Regan  
 6/25 Julia Schwartz (17th)  
 6/26 Tracy Diller  
 6/26 Claira Garretson (7th)  
 6/26 Jane Hammerstrom  
 6/26 Dan Stone  
 6/26 Jeremiah Witte (11th)  
 6/26 Nathaniel Witte (11th)  
 6/27 Sid Wanne  
 6/29 Lily Davis (8th)  
 6/29 Nicole Samuels

## JUNE 2019

6/1 Steve Spitzer  
 6/1 Caden Stoane (17th)  
 6/3 Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger  
 6/3 Linda B. Hirsh  
 6/4 Emily Bastow  
 6/4 Sam Hunter (19th)  
 6/4 Judith Osman  
 6/4 Belle Shalom  
 6/5 Samuel Comstock (9th)  
 6/6 Stephanie Druckman  
 6/7 Adrienne Champagne  
 6/7 Frank Champagne  
 6/7 McNeel Jantzen  
 6/8 Chris Balton  
 6/8 Janet Seltzer



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# Faces in our community: Geraldine Reitz

BY LINDA HIRSH

*Between leading bicycle tours in Ireland, Geraldine Reitz took a side trip on her own to explore one of the country's peninsulas. Stopping for a breath at the top of a hill, she saw a guy cycling toward her. He, too, stopped at the top.*

A conversation ensued. Back with the tour group she was leading, she found her co-leader was a no-show. The guy, who was doing his medical internship at an Irish hospital, stepped into the job.

The relationship grew beyond the Emerald Isle.

"He was studying for his medical boards in Heidelberg, Germany, so we spent two years continent-hopping," Geraldine said.

In 1992 Geraldine married Christoph Reitz in Germany. They lived there while he studied for his medical boards.

Christoph commented on the unlikely way they met, "It's the dream of every bicyclist, to meet a beautiful woman on a bicycle."

It also is an argument for taking the unknown route. Adventure has defined Geraldine's life. She's taught reading in New York City public schools and English in Germany, led a group of Harlem students to Israel, serves as an on-call chaplain, and



**THE REITZ FAMILY (top row, left to right): Tobias, Leah, Davis (son-in-law); (bottom row, left to right): Corey (Renata's fiancé), Geraldine holding baby Zariah (Leah and Davis' daughter), Renata, and Christoph.**

has been president of the Hillel board for three years. She says a connection with people sparked her interest in becoming a chaplain, but that could be said of all her adventures.

Geraldine is also active on the synagogue's Care Committee. "Her sense of humor and easy style belie the incredible energy she puts into her work on the committee," said co-chair Harriet Markell.

Geraldine was born in New York City's Lower Eastside. "It was very immigrant Jewish," she said, remembering the store signs with Hebrew lettering. Her family moved to Long Island, then to Queens, but the city was always in her life. Her grandparents were Orthodox Jewish immigrants. She recalls her grandfather davening, her grandmother lighting Shabbat candles. Both shared their

Judaism with her. Geraldine, whose parents were secular, contemplated becoming a rabbi. She majored in art at Stony Brook University. Upon graduation, she worked in galleries, aiming to become a curator. Then she took a master's degree in elementary education at Columbia University and in counseling at the City University in the Bronx.

Her advanced degrees readied her to work for ten years in New York City public schools. While there, Geraldine taught at an alternative high school in Spanish Harlem and was chosen to co-lead a group of 20 African-American and Hispanic teens to Israel for three months. During their trip, they worked on a kibbutz, and traveled from Eilat to Cairo, escorted by men with guns as they crossed Sinai.

*Continued on Page 13*



# D.C. TRIP, PURIM, AND MORE



1. K/1 class leading Shabbat in April. 2, 3, and 4. Confirmation students Willow Corey-DuBow, Orly Lindner, and Olivia Probst in D.C. as part of the L'taken Social Justice Seminar with Rabbi Samuels. 5. Jonah Attar, Eytan Samuels, and Max Braunstein at the Purim carnival. 6. Gan Yeladim teacher Noah Skolnik and Rabbi Samuels. 7. Miriam Davids and Joan Wayne serving up *hamantaschen*. 8. Purim revelers at the prize table.

*Cantor's corner*

# Cantorial school bound

BY ANDREA SHUPACK

In April, I submitted my application and had my interview and audition for cantorial school. I am very excited to announce that I have started attending cantorial school at The Academy for Jewish Religion (AJR) in New York. This is a long-distance program, so I will be able to attend classes and work towards ordination while still serving as your cantorial soloist. I will be taking courses part time, so it will not take away from my time at CBI. In my years of study, I will be deepening my knowledge and skills. I am excited to be able to bring what I learn back to our community, enriching services and classes, and providing more spiritual leadership.

This journey of deciding to go to cantorial school, and the application process itself, have solidified for me why I love Judaism so much and what kind of a cantor I want to become. While I am already a cantorial soloist, the depth of study I am taking on will allow me to develop in many new directions. I see so much potential for what I will be able to bring back to Beth Israel to benefit our whole community.

I cannot embark on this endeavor without your support. Cantorial school is very expensive. With the blessing of Rabbi Samuels and the Executive Board, I am asking those who are able and want to support me in this endeavor to donate to the "Cantorial Assistance Fund." These funds will only go toward my tuition and school expenses. This program will take me about six years to complete and will cost about \$34,000 each

year. I plan to give a concert next year as a fundraiser for the synagogue and cantorial school, and possibly a CD project in the future as well. I have all intention to use the knowledge and skills I learn for the sake of our community throughout my six-year degree and after my ordination. I have been so blessed to work for and be a part of this community. The outpouring of love and support from everyone since I arrived four and a half years ago has been humbling and moving. Already, so many of you have encouraged me to take this plunge into cantorial school.

AJR is a pluralistic seminary, which means they embrace and teach all Jewish perspectives. I find this particularly appealing, given the diverse make-up of our community, and my own attraction to aspects of each denomination. In my time at AJR, I will be studying Torah, theology, liturgy, Hebrew, history, and much more. I will be gaining a vast musical repertoire and knowledge of *nusach*, the traditional musical modes used for each service and holiday. I will also be developing many professional skills in areas such as counseling and hospital chaplaincy, education, and conducting life-cycle events. As our community continues to grow, I am passionately committed to growing with you. I look forward to serving you in new and even richer ways as we continue to explore our love of Judaism and our community together.

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot

June 8, 2019



Sharona leading a text study at last year's Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Shavuot is one of the original three major festivals in the Jewish tradition. It celebrates the giving of the Torah on Sinai. In honor of this gift, it is customary to spend part of the holiday

studying from our sacred texts. Developed by the 16th-century mystics in Tzfat, a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is an all-night study session. At Beth Israel, however, we'll be done by 10 pm!

In the past few years, we have learned from several teachers in our community from topics such as: Does Judaism Have a Devil; Torah Calligraphy; and The Jewish Humor of Jackie Mason.

Afterwards, please stay for a late-night song session beginning at 10 pm, led by Keshet teacher Miriam Buckman.

Come spend a couple hours on Saturday, June 8 beginning at 8 pm, engaged in learning some Torah and singing with friends. Moroccan Jews believe staying up all night guarantees you life for the next year. How can you possibly turn this down?!?

If you are interested in leading a 10-minute Jewish teaching, please contact Rabbi Samuels.

**FROM THE RABBI***Continued from Page 1*

order, simplicity, silence, trust, and of course, honor. This last one made for a great discussion. We learned that the Hebrew word for honor (*kavod*) shares a root with “heavy.” This other translation suggests that when we honor another person, we recognize that they embody a substantial (heavy) spiritual reality. Since each individual is made in the image of the Divine, then every human being is due honor and respect just by virtue of being alive. In other words, everyone, no matter who they are, what they’ve accomplished, or whether or not they even like you, is worthy of honor.

How much easier do we find it to be critical of others than to honor them? We don’t even have to turn on the news to hear people criticizing and mocking other people. This judgmental attitude is pervasive in our society, and no one is immune from its grasp. How often have we stepped into a room and immediately

scanned the crowd, putting everyone present through an instantaneous evaluation? Why do we even set up standards in the first place against which to gauge others and then spend so much of our mental energy appraising how they measure up? Dr. Alan Morinis, founder of The Mussar Institute, has an idea about why we are quick to criticize and slow to honor. He writes, “Whether we admit it or not, most of us want honor and feel we are not getting it, certainly not in the measure we feel to be our due. So the factor that drives us to be so critical of others is nothing other than our own search for honor, especially in our own eyes.”<sup>1</sup>

The more self-honor we have, the more capable we will be to give honor to others. And conversely, the more honor we give to others, the more honored we will be in return. This idea stems from Pirke Avot: “Who is honored? One who honors others.” We merit honor by giving honor.

The practice of Mussar helps students catch themselves in situations where a certain value, such as honor, is not being practiced in the most optimal way. It is challenging to refocus our attention in the heat of the moment, but if being critical of others is our tendency, then we must equip ourselves with a practice, such as a short phrase we can recite when placed at a crossroads. I encourage each of us to say to ourselves, “Every one, holy soul” or “This one, too, was created in God’s image.” One other practice we can all try is to make a conscious effort to greet everyone whom we encounter before they greet us. Just think about the kind of community we can create together if we all work on honoring ourselves and those in our community! We would most definitely be a *kehillah kedosha*, a holy community.

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

1. Morinis, Alan. *Everyday Holiness*. Boston, MA: Trumpeter, 2008.”

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## Thank you for helping homeless families

BY LAURA HARKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
INTERFAITH COALITION OF WHATCOM COUNTY

*“In Family Promise, I found a new family that taught me what giving and sharing really means. This family helped me achieve goals I’d never dared dream of. This family made me safer, stronger, more confident, and more courageous.”*—an Interfaith Coalition Family Promise guest.

As a member of the Interfaith Coalition, Congregation Beth Israel has been a vital partner in bringing shelter, stability, and hope to many in our community, and you helped launch our Family Promise Program in April 2018 to help more families transition out of homelessness. As we celebrate the first year, we want to thank you for your immense support as a Host/Support Congregation, and for your continued faith and work in this mission of service to families in need. You have been the face of love and compassion to many.

Here is a look at what you helped Family Promise accomplish this first year: 18 families served, representing 67 people (44 were children), 10 families found better

employment, 10 families received better healthcare, 13 families received financial literacy training, and families spent an average of 7.5 weeks in the program before moving to stable housing. So far, 850 volunteers have been trained.

Please join us for a Shine Celebration for Family Promise’s First Birthday - Tuesday, April 30. There will be an Open House from 6 to 9 pm at Birchwood Presbyterian Church (400 Meadowbrook Court, Bellingham.) We celebrate the incredible partnership and generosity of the congregations and volunteers, and the immense caring and generosity, large and small, that has been stitched together to surround and care for these families in need.

Laura Harker can be reached at 910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, at (360) 734-3983 or via email at [laura@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:laura@interfaith-coalition.org).



# Special Fund Donations

## CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jack Gunther (El Cajon, CA)  
– in memory of Barry Hamm  
**From:** *Ruth Evans*

\*Marla Finkelstein and Wendy Holtzman – in memory of their mother, Esther Katz  
\*Karen Sloss – in memory of her father, Louis Sloss  
**From:** *Miriam & Perry Davids*

## CARE COMMITTEE

### IN HONOR OF:

The birth of Zoe Harper Fine.  
Mazel Tov to parents Eli & Laura Fine and Saba/Savta Elliott & Nora Fine!  
**From:** *Great-Bubbie Harriet Fine*

The Care Committee – in memory of my beloved wife, Rosalie  
**From:** *Stan Yacknin (San Rafael, CA)*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

\*Mia Clarke, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
\*Elinor Hall, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
**From:** *Patrick Crane*

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Joan Wayne, for all she does for Beth Israel  
**From:** *Sylvia Williams*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Joan Wayne, on the loss of her sister  
**From:** *Sylvia Williams*

Elka Fink and family – in memory of beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Myron Fink  
**From:** *Susan Jay*

### COMMEMORATING Yahrzeit of:

\*Lou Fine  
\*David Fine  
\*Jack Eigen  
**From:** *Harriet Fine*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels  
**From:** *Nancy Miller*

Rabbi Samuels, for Conon's bris  
**From:** *Camille & Matthew Keefe*  
*Jean & Terry Danon (Taos, NM)*

Rabbi Samuels, for Mia's Bat Mitzvah  
**From:** *Tamar & Shawn Clarke*

### WITH GRATITUDE TO:

Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)  
**From:** *Todd Witte*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

\*Elka Fink and family – in memory of her beloved husband, Myron  
\*Roby Blecker, in memory of Frank McKelvey  
**From:** *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

\*Marla Finkelstein – in memory of her mother, Esther Katz  
\*Karen Sloss – in memory of her father, Louis Sloss  
**From:** *Jay & Donna Solomon*

### COMMEMORATING Yahrzeit of:

Jack Mazur, beloved father and grandfather  
**From:** *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

## THE GENERAL FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

The baby-naming of our granddaughter, Maeve Hammerstrom  
**From:** *Marc & Leah Boman (Mercer Island)*

## THE KESHER TUITION FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

Thank you for the Purim treats!  
**From:** *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

Thanks for the lovely Purim gift  
**From:** *Minda Rae Amiran Belle Shalom*  
*Bonnie & Alan Stone*

### WITH GRATITUDE:

To the Beth Israel community  
**From:** *The Balton Family*

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Esther Faber*  
*Richard Widerkehr*

## NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Karen Sloss, for her PEP talk  
**From:** *Teresa Sommers*

Cora Ginsberg (Rancho Mirage, CA)  
**From:** *Peter & Rhoda Samuels*

### IN HONOR OF:

Alan Stone, for his 90th birthday  
**From:** *Joseph Stone (Seattle)*  
  
Katie Edelstein's Special Birthday  
**From:** *Carol & David Robinson*  
*Joan & Marv Wayne*

\*Arthur Rivkin (Rancho Mirage, CA), for his 95th birthday  
\*Deanna Berrin (Van Nuys, CA), for her Special Birthday  
\*Lee Pollack - Congratulations  
**From:** *Peter & Rhoda Samuels*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Joan Wayne – in memory of her sister Kathy  
**From:** *Corinne Gimbel-Levine & Hank Levine*  
*Gaby & Victoria Mayers*

Roby Blecker – in memory of Frank McKelvey  
**From:** *Lynn & Michael Korner*  
*Joan & Marv Wayne*

\*Marla Finkelstein and Wendy Holtzman – in memory of their mother, Esther Katz  
\*Karen Sloss – in memory of her father, Louis Sloss  
**From:** *Joan & Marv Wayne*

## Save the Date

### Congregation Beth Israel's

**Taste**  
of the  
**Town**

*August 25, 2019*  
*5:00 – 7:00 pm*

*An event for adults, 21 years and older. Each \$36 ticket will provide unlimited bite-size tastes and beverage samples from some of Bellingham's best restaurants, caterers and beverage companies. Childcare provided.*

*Giving back never tasted so good!*

## Classes at CBI

### The story of King David

Instructor: Stuart Berman

Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm; 6 sessions  
(May 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 3)

Fee: \$36

David was our greatest king and easily the most developed character in the entire Bible. His story (told in Samuel 1 and 2) reads like a great novel filled with adventure, romance, family drama, spiritual significance and more. This course will treat the story as literature, using Robert Alter's translation, and each week we will read a portion and discuss it. We will look at such questions as what were the Israelites like before David united them? What roles did the prophet Samuel and the failed King Saul play in the story? Why was the flawed character of David chosen to be the ancestor of the Messiah? No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, and everyone's ideas are welcome.

Please purchase your own copy of Robert Alter's *The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel*.

Register through the main office.

### Martial arts at CBI

Instructor: Kevin Donner

Learn the traditional Korean Martial Art, Kuk Sool Won, right here in our own shul from a black belt instructor, congregation member Kevin Donner. Invest in yourself and in our community. 100% of your tuition benefits Congregation Beth Israel. For class information, call Kevin at 206-290-5339 or email him at the\_kcd@hotmail.com. Appropriate for adults and children of all fitness levels. Self-defense is for everybody!

### GERALDINE REITZ

*Continued from Page 8*

The toughest part was "making sure [the teens] got up and on the [kibbutz] truck at 5:30 am," Geraldine said. Also tough was "reminding them to keep their journals."

After two years in Germany, the couple settled in America, first in New York for Christoph's residency at Beth Israel hospital, then in Bellingham in 2001 where Christoph practices internal medicine.

"We couldn't stand the extreme heat, humidity and cold on the East coast," she said. "We are outdoor people and found Bellingham beautiful."

The couple has three children, Renata, 25, Tobias, 23, and Leah, 20. Leah, who lives in Ferndale, is married and has a three-month old baby, Zariah Beatrix. All three youngsters were adopted in Hungary, the country from which Geraldine's family emigrated. There, the second language was German, the language she speaks with them to this day.

It was understood that Geraldine would raise their children as Jews. Her German mother-in-law, who attended Leah's Bat Mitzvah, adapted by telling her, "We believe in the same God."

When the children were older, she volunteered at Hospice House every

Thursday. The chaplains spoke to her about what they did—helping patients write advance care plans and a living will, offering support, being there for trauma emergencies. It sounded good to Geraldine. In 2012, she started chaplaincy training, an intensive 1,600 hours, 300 of those in direct patient care. Then St. Joseph Hospital hired her as a part-time chaplain. Explaining her enthusiasm, she said, "I'm drawn into a family, taken in deeply, quickly. [I can] also offer support to families in difficult situations."

## Love Where You Live



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# Program offered on June 16

BY GLORIA LEBOWITZ

In early March, I participated in a program held at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship entitled *Roots of Injustice*. I was overwhelmed by what I learned. I immediately began to think about how and whether this could be a program offered to the CBI community. I spoke with the organizer and facilitator about this.

Having grown up (long ago) on the East Coast, I knew little about and had virtually no contact with Native Peoples other than what was taught in the forth or fifth grade. I'm sure that, at some point, I must have been taught something about Manifest Destiny, but I didn't remember it at all and certainly, had no idea of the impact that it has had on the United States and its people. The program is titled, *"Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Towards Right Relations with Native Peoples."* It will be offered twice on June 16, 2019 at 10 am-12 pm, and 1-3 pm.

This is a two-hour exercise which traces the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, the fifteenth-century justification for European subjugation of non-Christian peoples. It is in the Doctrine of Discovery that we find the roots of injustice. In the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we find the seeds of change. The goal of this program is to raise one's level of knowledge and concern about the impacts of the Doctrine, to think about how information about Native

Peoples is taught in our schools, to recognize in ourselves and our institutions how we relate to Native Peoples, and to explore how we can begin to take actions toward "right relationships."

A Facilitator and Four Readers (a Narrator, Native American, European Colonialist, and a Western Historian) will guide us through history. A resource list of readings will be provided with suggestions for continued study and action.

The suggested donation of \$20 will be used to cover the honorarium, use of the materials developed by the Boulder Friends (Quaker) community and a donation from CBI to the 2019 Tribal Canoe Journey, also known as the Paddle 2 Lummi.

The program is suitable for older adolescents and young adults, particularly if accompanied by parents. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.

Please register and pay online by signing onto the CBI website: [bethisraelbellingham.org](http://bethisraelbellingham.org), noting the preferred session you wish to attend (10 am-12 pm or 1-3 pm). We realize June 16 is also Father's Day, but we hope you will find time to come! If you have questions, or need help with registration or payment, please call the office.

## Anniversaries

May 1	Mitch & Lisa Press	(# 25)	June 2	Jay & Donna Solomon	(# 55)
May 1	Richard & Idalina Trank	(# 15)	June 5	Bruce & Debra Parelskin	(# 42)
May 7	Miriam & Perry Davids	(# 2)	June 5	John Sternlicht & James Finley	(# 9)
May 7	Steven & Victoria Garfinkle	(# 25)	June 9	Don Fenbert & Valerie Randolph	(# 29)
May 9	John & Melissa Schapiro	(# 26)	June 10	Frank & Adrienne Champagne	(# 7)
May 11	Patrick Crane & Rick Peavy	(# 35)	June 10	David Strich & Michelle Banks	(# 5)
May 12	Jeffrey & Wendy Holtzman	(# 34)	June 12	Gaby & Victoria Mayers	(# 34)
May 16	Larry & Melissa Stahlberg	(# 41)	June 16	Tammy & Daryl Dixon	(# 12)
May 18	Rick & Leslie Adelstein	(# 44)	June 18	David & Jill Elkayam	(# 41)
May 21	Larry Hildes & Karen Weill	(# 19)	June 19	Miles Bryant & Sarah Bauman	(# 43)
May 24	Rick & Tracey Levine	(# 32)	June 19	David & Nancy Halpern	(# 15)
May 24	Rebecca & Andrew Orloff	(# 21)	June 19	Ann Suloway & Tim Baker	(# 26)
May 27	Lynne & Mark MacDonald	(# 41)	June 23	Michelle & Joseph Anderson	(#18)
May 29	Darcie Donegan & Phil Buri	(# 26)	June 23	Meg Jacobson & Russell Pritchett	(# 45)
May 29	Rabbi Joshua & Nicole Samuels	(#14)	June 23	David & Rena Ziegler	(# 51)
			June 25	Peter & Nancy Auerbach	(# 53)
			June 25	Sarah & Todd Witte	(# 19)

Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at  
(360) 733-8890 or email [office@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:office@bethisraelbellingham.org) with the month, day & year of your special day.



# Yahrzeits

Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless the secular date is requested, and are read on the Shabbat prior to the observance date.

## Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4

Leila Shavelson	5/4
Naomi Krauzer Feinberg	5/5
Lena Horwitz	5/5
Louie Simon	5/6
Max Swartz	5/6
Thelma Weiner	5/6
Rabbi Frederick S. Gartner	5/7
Kenneth Parelskin	5/7
Edward Stone	5/7
Rose Sondik	5/8
Frederick (Freddy) Kullman	5/9
Karleen Press	5/9
Lloyd Saxton	5/9
Eliezer Strich	5/9
Lucie Weis	5/9
Manuel "Manny" Emanuel	5/10
Barbara Vaughan	5/10

## Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11

Sally Warshay	5/11
Elayne B. Weiner	5/11
Mary Widerkehr	5/11
Pearl Albert	5/13
Judy Aikens	5/14
Esther Siegel	5/14
Rachel Damski	5/15
Felicia Keller	5/15
Sergio Shwadsky	5/15
Ray Jay	5/16
Florence Marcus	5/17

## Friday, May 17

Elaine Greenberg	5/19
Emanuel Jacobson	5/19
Maia Haykin	5/20
Barbara (McNulty) Higham	5/20
Alan Raas	5/20
Evelyn Renfro	5/20
Saul S. Spiro	5/20
Rachel DeVries	5/21
Lloyd Relin	5/21
Sydell Zemel	5/22
Margaret Horwitz	5/24
Louis Suloway	5/24

## Friday, May 24

Audrey May King	5/25
Arthur Markell	5/25
Esther Kahn	5/26
Myron Gordon	5/27
Irwin Suloway	5/27
Jack Kleinfeld	5/28
Walter Miller	5/29
Jean Dement	5/30
Sam Eilenberg	5/30
Rebecca Leavitt	5/30
Arnold Zolotrow	5/30

## Friday, May 31

*(No Shabbat service – will be read on May 24)*

Samuel Emanuel	5/31
Rose Thal	5/31
Louis Adelstein	6/1
Rose Block	6/1
Nan Lopresti	6/2
Samuel Schwartz	6/2
William Stone	6/2
Otto Furth	6/3
Reva Beck	6/4
Samuel Beck	6/5
Belle Kaplan Shapiro	6/5
Dottie Berelson	6/6
Oscar Evans	6/6
Dorothy Katz	6/6

## Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8

Ethel Sandford	6/7
Louise Hecht	6/9
Jay Renfro	6/9
Rose Beck	6/10
Henry W. Fenbert	6/10
Marvin Globerman	6/10
Denise Guren	6/11
Rose Millstein	6/11
William Robinson	6/12
David Archie Bauman	6/13
Emma (Weigt) Korneck	6/13
Irene Rosenfeld	6/13

## Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15

Rosalind Kantor	6/15
Audrey Jaffe	6/16
Marion Selznick	6/17

Frances Glazer Garmo	6/19
David Ohms	6/19
Miriam Shepard	6/19
Marcia M. Morris Yust	6/19
Jack Glazer	6/21

## Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22

Edward R. Glazer	6/22
Stanley Schlanger	6/22
Rose Rebecca Glazer	6/23
Vincent Romito	6/23
Bill Lewis	6/24
Harold "Bud" Blank	6/26
Lillian Feldman	6/26
Michael Kendal	6/26
Marcella Schapiro	6/26
Irving Edward Shapiro	6/28

## Friday, June 28

Edith Corman	6/29
Elaine Lev Beller	7/1
Rasela Catz	7/1
Alice Lebanksy	7/1
Ann Dechter	7/2
Sol Harris Lewis	7/2
Arthur Thal	7/2
Lawrence Witte	7/2
Libby Witte	7/2
Sandy York	7/2
Adrienne Benson	7/3
Rachel Emanuel	7/3
Richard Morrison	7/3
Cora Quiggle	7/3
William Beck	7/4
David Horwitz	7/4
Virginia Hunter	7/5

## In Memoriam

*Zichronam l'vrachah ~ May their memories be for a blessing*

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to the following individuals and their families:

Elka Fink on the loss of her beloved husband of sixty-three years, **Myron Fink**, who passed away on March 27, 2019 at the age of 92.

Marla Finkelstein and Wendy Holtzman on the loss of their beloved mother, **Esther Katz**, who passed away on April 5, 2019 in California.

Roby Blecker on the loss of **Frank McKelvey**, beloved son of her late husband, Keith Baker. Frank passed away on April 5, 2019 in California.

Karen Sloss on the loss of her beloved father, **Louis Sloss**, who passed away in California on April 6, 2019.

Perry Somers on the loss of his beloved father, **Arnold Somers**, who passed away on April 21 in Redmond, Washington.

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

**Congregation Beth Israel**  
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## PLAN TO ATTEND END-OF-YEAR CBI PICNIC

***June 2, 12-2 pm***  
***following Kesher morning classes***  
***at Congregation Beth Israel***

*Come celebrate a successful year of Jewish learning at Kesher! Join us for games and good company following our final Kesher classes of the school year. Kesher will provide barbecued salmon, but otherwise this will be a dairy potluck meal.*

Please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils.

